

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DISTR 17 June 1954

25X1 SUBJECT

KVP Installations at Strausberg

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Incoming shipments at the Strausberg railroad station from 15 February to early March 1954 and consigned to Strausberg airfield included 17 and 75 cars with sections of prefabricated houses from Torgelow and Teltow respectively and 20 cars with furniture from Torgelow. From 200 to 250 KVPs wearing red collar patches were observed at the airfield. 1

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2. On 17 March 1954, [] individual buildings of the Seehaus construction project were scheduled to be ready for acceptance by the Ministry of the Interior (MdI) on 1 May 1954. It was allegedly planned to move the entire MdI inclusive of the office of Major General Mayer, chief of the Construction and Billeting Department, to the Seehaus installation. In March, the 4th Department of the Billeting Administration (VGM) purchased large lots in Biesdorf on which residential settlements for members of the MdI were to be constructed. 2

3. In mid-February 1954, [] the entire so-called "East-of-Berlin" Project was scheduled to be completed by 1 October 1954. Construction funds appropriated totaled 31,200,000 eastmarks. The scheduled construction of about 60 villas near Lake Islandsee near Wilkendorf, at an estimated cost of 9,000,000 eastmarks, was cancelled after a visit to Strausberg by Soviet High Commissioner V.S. Semenov on 15 February 1954.

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4. Sketches made in mid-February 1954 indicated that billets for bachelor officers were under construction on Wriezener Chaussee near Strausberg, and that, in addition to existing apartment buildings for the employees of the MdI, other such houses were to be constructed along Berliner Strasse between Max Liebermann Strasse and the cemetery.

5. On 15 February 1954, [] Lieutenant Colonel Haack, who belonged to the staff of the MdI in Berlin, was in charge of the entire Seehaus Project, inclusive of officers' and generals' billets.

6. At a meeting which was held at the Designs Office of the MdI in late February, [] the staff of the construction headquarters at Strausberg would be doubted since the target date for the completion of the Seehaus Project was advanced from 1 September 1954 to 1 August 1954. Officers attending the meeting included Major General Wilhelm Mayer, Lieutenant Colonel Johannes Rochlitzer,

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Major Thomas (fnu), Major (Lieutenant Colonel?) Haack (fnu), and Captain Freitag (fnu). [REDACTED] Rochlitzer had been a lieutenant colonel in the Czech Army prior to 1939 and that he was taken over as a major by the German Army in 1939.

7. At another meeting which was held in late February 1954 and was also attended by Major General Mayer and Captain Freitag, the latter confirmed that former Field Marshal Paulus was scheduled to become Commander in Chief of the KVP and that universal military training would be promulgated in East Germany eight weeks after the signing of the European Defense Community Treaty. 3

8. [REDACTED] the Seehaus Project was to provide accommodations for 2,000 KVP officers. The apartment houses under construction outside the project indicated that this figure is correct. Preparations for the construction of a so-called culture palace were started opposite the site for the Seehaus Project. A maximum of 20,000,000 eastmarks was allocated for the construction of this building. The general's billets which were mentioned in a previous report were to be constructed at another site. For this reason the castle near Strausberg, which was being reconditioned to serve as quarters for Field Marshal Paulus, was to be used as a guest house instead. 3

9. KVP officers [REDACTED] included Lieutenant General Vincenz Mueller, chief of KVP-Heer (Army) and deputy of Minister Willi Stoph, 4 Major General Rudolf Doelling, chief of the political department of the KVP; Colonel von Witzleben, Chief of Staff of Corps North; Colonel Zettler, a member of the political department of the KVP in Adlershof; and Major Lehmann, chief of the Adlershof motor transport department.

10. On 19 March 1954, workers employed on the Seehaus Project totaled 1,800 men. [REDACTED] building No 4 was scheduled to be completed on 1 May 1954.

11. On 23 March 1954, [REDACTED] Lieutenant General Heinz Hoffmann was titled Kommandierender Armeegeneral (Commanding general of the Army) and was to have his future seat at the Seehaus installation. Field Marshal Paulus, who acted as an adviser, held the temporary rank of lieutenant general but was scheduled to become a general of the army at a later date.

1. [REDACTED] Comment. See paragraphs 1 and 2 and applicable [REDACTED] comment, [REDACTED] 25X1A

2. [REDACTED] Comment. Previous reports on the Seehaus Project indicated a military installation. The statement above that the entire Ministry of the Interior is scheduled to move to the Seehaus installation is believed improbable.

3. [REDACTED] Comment. See paragraphs 2 and 7 and applicable [REDACTED] comment, [REDACTED] 25X1A

4. [REDACTED] Comment. This office believes that Lieutenant General Vincenz Mueller is chief of the KVP-Hauptstab, while Lieutenant General Heinz Hoffmann is being carried as chief of the entire KVP, including ground forces, the Navy and Air Force, which was recently redesignated Aeroclub.

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